

City of Columbus Releases Annual Sewer Overflow Report ***One overflow location removed in 2010, another modified***

The Columbus Department of Public Utilities made additional strides toward reducing sanitary sewer overflow locations and water-in-basement occurrences in 2010 through capital improvement projects and preventive maintenance programs. The results are contained in the 2010 City of Columbus Sanitary Sewer Overflow and Water in Basement Report, which was recently completed and submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Consent order agreements between the city and state require the report to be filed annually with the agency. Additionally, strategies to reduce overflows from heavy storms in older areas built with combined sewers are being implemented through the 40-year Wet Weather Management Plan, launched in 2005 and approved by the OEPA in 2009.

Highlights of accomplishments during 2010 include:

- One sanitary sewer overflow discharge location was removed in the Big Walnut Creek watershed, along Penfield Drive.
- Temporary tank modifications and a revised operating strategy at the city's most active overflow location, the Whittier Street Storm Tanks, resulted in no overflows from this location after July. Additional permanent modifications will be implemented in 2011.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage provided backflow prevention devices to 30 Columbus homes at a cost of approximately \$108,000 under the Project Dry Basement program, launched by Mayor Michael B. Coleman in 2004.
- As part of a continuing preventive maintenance cleaning program launched in 2005, 46 sewersheds have been completed and cleaning in 16 others are in progress.

“Reductions in the numbers of overflows and locations during 2010 show we are making progress in the Wet Weather Management Plan. It remains our commitment to further reduce overflows in an environmentally responsible way while doing all we can to keep rates affordable,” said Director Tatyana Arsh.

The full report is available to the public on the Department of Public Utilities' web site at: www.utilities.columbus.gov under the Project Clean Rivers area; or go directly to the report at utilities.columbus.gov/dosd/pdfs/2010SSO-WIBReport.pdf. Print copies are also available by request.

To report any suspected sewer overflows or other sewer related issues, Columbus residents should call 311 or 645-3111, or 645-7102.